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An Extract of a Letter

Writtentothe Publisher from Plymouth Novem. 2. 1669. by William Durston Dr. of Physick; concerning the Death of the Bigg-breasted Woman (discoursed of in Numb. 52.) together with what was thereupon observed in her Body.

Sir,

I Thank you for yours, which by reason of my absence came not to my hands till this day. *Elizabeth Travers* dyed on Thursday night, *October 21*. The next morning I sent for a Chirurgeon, and some others to be present at the opening, and taking off of her Breasts; though we only took off one, *viz.* the biggest, which was the left, and having weighed it, we found it of *Sixty four* pounds weight. Upon the opening of it, (which we made in several places) we could find neither Water, nor Cancerous humors, nor any thing vitious, more than the prodigious bigness; and the *Tubuli* and Parenchymous flesh were purely white and solid, and no other than what we see in the soundest Breasts of Women, or the best Udders of other Animals. She had lost her stomach and rest severall weeks before, and made great complaints of her Breasts from their great distension; and her whole Body was exceedingly emaciated. I have sent you inclosed *one* measure, which was the *Breadth* of her two Breasts (as she was layd out on a Table being dead;) I mean, from the further end of the one to the other; which you'll find *three foot two Inches* and *an halfe*; and *another* measure, shewing the *Circumference* of the Breasts *long-wise*, *viz.* *four foot*, and near *four* inches; and a *third*, giving the *Circumference* of the *Breadth*, *viz.* *three foot four inches* and *an halfe*.

The right Breast we took not off, but we guess, it weighed *fourty* pounds. I did some weeks since begin a Salivation with her, which lessen'd her Breasts in circumference some inches; but she proving not conformable, I durst not proceed to keep up the flux, but was forc'd to desist. But she was wonderfully revived afterwards for some time. She being weary of that course, I then caus'd a *Caustic* to be applyed; upon which the *Eskar* falling off, yet nothing issued out of the Breast.

Then

(1069)

Then I caused an Incision-knife to be used, and made an Incision two inches and an halfe deep (supposing the Caustick had not wrought deep enough) but 'twas to no more purpose, than the former.

An Account of some Books.

I. *CERTAIN PHILOSOPHICAL ESSAYES, and other TRACTS, by the Honorable ROBERT BOYLE, Fellow of the R. Society. The Second Edition, enlarged. London; printed for Henry Herringman in the New Exchange. A. 1669.*

WE could not but give the Curious Reader notice of this reprinted and in divers places considerably enriched Book; but chiefly increased by the Addition of a very Philosophical Discourse about the *Absolute Rest in Bodies*, wherein the Noble Author, with his usual modesty as well as acuteness, delivers his Thoughts concerning the Intestin Motions of the Particles of *Quiescent Solids*, and in doing so calls the *Absolute Rest* of Bodies in Question, by undertaking to prove, That some of those Bodies, which we think have their parts *most* at Rest, are not exempted from having internal Motions in them; to which proof he Judgeth 'twill be consequent, that it must be probable, that in other Bodies, whose Solidity is confessed inferior, the component Particles are not in a State of *Perfect Rest*.

II. *DEL MOVIMENTO DELLA COMETA, apparsa il mese di Dicembre 1664. da PIETRO MARRIA MUTOLI, in Pisa, in 4°.*

THis, and the next following Tract, (consisting each of a few sheets only) should sooner have been taken notice of in these *Transactions*, if they had sooner come to our hands